

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1, 4 and 14-16 without prejudice or admission and amend claims 2, 3 and 17 as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous listings and versions of claims.

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) ~~An electric equipment according to claim 1, wherein the charge control circuit controls the charge current~~ An electric equipment comprising:

a battery;

an electric condenser that has an internal resistance lower than that of the battery and accumulates therein an electric power of the battery;

a charge control circuit that controls a charge current originating from the electric power of the battery and flowing from the battery to the electric condenser; and

a load driven with the electric power accumulated in the electric condenser;

wherein the charge control circuit controls the charge current in accordance with a self-discharge rate of the battery so that a battery voltage drop developed across the battery falls within a range of 5 to 20% of a battery voltage when the battery is in an open state.

3. (currently amended) ~~An electric equipment according to claim 1; wherein the charge control circuit controls the charge current~~ An electric equipment comprising:

a battery;

an electric condenser that has an internal resistance lower than that of the battery and accumulates therein an electric power of the battery;

a charge control circuit that controls a charge current originating from the electric power of the battery and flowing from the battery to the electric condenser; and

a load driven with the electric power accumulated in the electric condenser;

wherein the charge control circuit controls the charge current in accordance with a self-discharge rate of the battery so that a battery voltage drop developed across the battery falls within a range of 10 to 40% of a battery voltage when the battery is in an open state.

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) An electric equipment comprising:

a battery;

an electric condenser that has an internal resistance lower than that of the battery and accumulates therein an electric power of the battery;

a charge control circuit that controls a charge current originating from the electric power of the battery and flowing from the battery to the electric condenser; and

a load driven with the electric power accumulated in the electric condenser;

wherein the load is driven in a first operation mode or a second operation mode consuming more current than in the first operation mode; and

wherein the charge control circuit charges the electric condenser in a first charge control mode with a charge current larger than a current consumed when the load is driven in the first operation mode and with a charge current smaller than a current consumed when the load is driven in the second operation mode.

6. (previously presented) An electric equipment according to claim 5; wherein the charge control circuit controls the charge current so that a battery voltage drop developed across the battery falls within a range of 5 to 20% of the battery voltage when the battery is in an open state.

7. (previously presented) An electric equipment according to claim 5; wherein a self-discharge rate of the battery is equal to or larger than 10%; and wherein the charge control circuit controls the charge current so that a battery voltage drop developed across the battery falls within a range

of 10 to 40% of the battery voltage when the battery is in an open state.

8. (previously presented) An electric equipment according to claim 5; wherein the charge control circuit has a DC-DC converter for converting the electric power of the battery inputted into a conversion electric power having a different voltage; and wherein a quantity of the conversion electric power of the DC-DC converter is controlled to control the charge current.

9. (previously presented) An electric equipment according to claim 5; wherein the charge control circuit charges the electric condenser in a second charge control mode with a charge current equal to or larger than the current consumed when the load is driven in the second operation mode; wherein when a quantity of accumulated electric power of the electric condenser exceeds a quantity of desired electric power, the electric condenser is charged in the first charge control mode; and wherein when the quantity of accumulated electric power of the electric condenser is equal to or less than the quantity of desired electric power, the electric condenser is charged in the second charge control mode.

10. (previously presented) An electric equipment according to claim 9; wherein a voltage of the electric condenser becomes equal to a predetermined voltage so that the

quantity of accumulated electric power of the electric condenser becomes equal to the quantity of desired electric power.

11. (previously presented) An electric equipment according to claim 10; wherein the charge control circuit has a DC-DC converter for converting the electric power of the battery into a conversion electric power having a different voltage; and wherein a quantity of the conversion electric power of the DC-DC converter is controlled to control the charge current.

12. (previously presented) An electric equipment according to claim 11; wherein the DC-DC converter includes a voltage control function of controlling the conversion electric power so that the voltage of the electric condenser becomes equal to the predetermined voltage; and wherein the voltage control function operates in the second charge control mode.

13. (previously presented) An electric equipment according to claim 11; wherein the DC-DC converter includes a first DC-DC converter for controlling the charge current so that a battery voltage drop developed across the battery becomes a predetermined amount, and a second DC-DC converter for controlling the charge current so that the voltage of the electric condenser becomes equal to the predetermined voltage;

and wherein in the first charge control mode, the electric condenser is charged using the first DC-DC converter, and in the second charge control mode, the electric condenser is charged using the second DC-DC converter.

14. - 16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) ~~An electric equipment according to claim 1; wherein the charge control circuit~~ An electric equipment comprising:

a battery;

an electric condenser that has an internal resistance lower than that of the battery and accumulates therein an electric power of the battery;

a charge control circuit that controls a charge current originating from the electric power of the battery and flowing from the battery to the electric condenser; and

a load driven with the electric power accumulated in the electric condenser;

wherein the charge control circuit controls the charge current in accordance with a self-discharge rate of the battery and has a first charge control mode that controls the charge current with a first charged electric power and a second charge control mode that controls the charge current with a second charged electric power greater than the first charged electric power; and wherein the charge control circuit

monitors a quantity of electric power accumulated by the electric condenser so that when the quantity of electric power accumulated by the electric condenser exceeds a preselected quantity, the charge control circuit controls the charge current to the electric condenser in the first charge control mode, and when the quantity of electric power accumulated by the electric condenser is less than or equal to the preselected quantity, the charge control circuit controls the charge current to the electric condenser in the second charge control mode.

18. (previously presented) An electric equipment comprising:

a battery;

an electric condenser that has an internal resistance lower than that of the battery and accumulates therein an electric power of the battery;

a charge control circuit that controls a charge current originating from the electric power of the battery and flowing to the electric condenser so that when a self-discharge of the battery is less than 10%, a battery voltage drop across the battery falls within a range of 5% to 20% of a battery voltage when the battery is in an open state, and so that when the self-discharge of the battery is equal to or larger than 10%, the battery voltage drop of the battery

falls within a range of 10% to 40% of the battery voltage when the battery is in the open state; and

a load driven with the electric power accumulated in the electric condenser.

19. (previously presented) An electric equipment according to claim 18; wherein the charge control circuit has a DC-DC converter for converting the electric power of the battery into a conversion electric power having a different voltage; and wherein a quantity of the conversion electric power of the DC-DC converter is controlled to control the charge current.

20. (previously presented) An electric equipment according to claim 18; wherein the battery comprises a fuel cell; and wherein the electric condenser comprises a Ni-MH secondary battery or a lithium secondary battery.